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Patent claims

- 5 1. A method for operating a motor vehicle having
- an internal combustion engine (11),
  - an automatic start/stop device for the internal combustion engine (11),
  - a controllable brake device (22) by means of
- 10 which a braking torque can be applied to the motor vehicle, and
- a brake pedal (24) which can be activated by a vehicle driver,
- wherein the brake device (22) is actuated by a control
- 15 device (12, 23) in an automatic stop phase of the internal combustion engine (11) as a function of a degree of activation of the brake pedal (24), characterized in that
- the control device (12, 23) can increase the
- 20 braking torque independently of the degree of activation of the brake pedal (24),
- the control device (12, 23) checks, at the start of the automatic stop phase, and during the automatic stop phase, of the internal
- 25 combustion engine (11), whether the currently acting braking torque is smaller than a threshold value, and
- when there is a positive result of the check, the braking torque increases to a value which
- 30 is greater than or equal to the threshold value.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the control device (12, 23) determines the
- 35 threshold value as a function of state variables and/or operating variables of the motor vehicle before the brake device (22) is actuated.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2,

characterized in that the control device (12, 23) determines the threshold value as a function of environmental variables before the brake device (22) is actuated.

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4. The method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the control device (12, 23) determines

- 10       - a braking torque ( $M_{brake\_stop}$ ) which is necessary to stop the motor vehicle, and
- sets the aforesaid threshold value to a value which is greater than or equal to the specific braking torque ( $M_{brake\_stop}$ ).

15   5. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that during the stop phase the control device (12, 23) monitors whether the motor vehicle is moving, and in the case of a movement it actuates the brake device (22) in such a way that the braking torque  
20   is increased.

6. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the control device (23) increases the braking torque before the internal combustion  
25   engine (11) starts.